

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 24-26, 28-31, 33-35, 37 and 40-41 are cancelled, claims 22-23, 27, 32, 38-39 and 42-46 are amended, and claims 47-51 are added. Claim 36 remains in the application. Thus, claims 22-23, 27, 32, 36, 38-39 and 42-51 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Amended claims 22-23, 27, 32, 38-39 and 42-46 and new claims 47-51 read on Group I identified in the September 18, 2000 Office Action and Species IV identified in the June 3, 2005 Office Action.

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, claim 41 was objected to because of the identified informalities. This objection is believed to be moot in view of the cancellation of claim 41.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 31 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

This rejection is believed to be moot with respect to claim 31 in view of the cancellation of claim 31. This rejection is overcome with respect to claim 42 for the following reasons.

The Examiner asserted that the limitation “removing all or part of the uncured part of the radiation curable [resin]” lacked proper antecedent basis because reciting that a radiation curable resin is cured in part does not necessarily mean that part of the resin is uncured. Claim 42 depends from claim 22, which was amended to recite that a first part of the first radiation curable resin is cured such that a second part of the first radiation curable resin is uncured. Therefore, the limitation “removing all or part of the uncured second part of the first radiation curable resin” has proper antecedent basis since claim 22 positively recites that the second part of the first radiation curable resin is uncured.

Accordingly in view of the amendments to claims 22 and 42, the Applicants respectfully submit that each limitation in claim 42 clearly has proper antecedent basis. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 22-23, 25-29, 31-36, 40-43 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Itoigawa et al. (U.S. 5,759,332, hereinafter "Itoigawa").

Without intending to acquiesce to this rejection, independent claim 22 has been amended in order to more clearly illustrate the marked differences between the present invention and the applied references. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentable over the applied references for the following reasons.

The present invention, as recited in claim 22, provides a manufacturing method for an optical data recording medium. The method of claim 22 comprises preparing a first substrate, and applying a first radiation curable resin to a side of the first substrate. Further, the method of claim 22 comprises curing a first part of the first radiation curable resin such that a second part of the first radiation curable resin is uncured. The method of claim 22 also comprises preparing a second substrate having a groove or lands and pits on one side, and applying a second radiation curable resin to the side of the second substrate having the groove or the lands and pits.

Further, the method of claim 22 comprises curing a first part of the second radiation curable resin such that a second part of the second radiation curable resin is uncured. The method of claim 22 also comprises laminating the first radiation curable resin of the first substrate and the second radiation curable resin of the second substrate together after both of the first and second radiation curable resins are partially cured in the operation of curing the first part of the first radiation curable resin and curing the first part of the second radiation curable resin.

In addition, the method of claim 22 comprises curing the uncured second part of the first radiation curable resin and the uncured second part of the second radiation curable resin after the first radiation curable resin of the first substrate and the second radiation curable resin of the second substrate are laminated together.

Lastly, the method of claim 22 comprises removing the first substrate after the uncured second part of the first radiation curable resin and the uncured second part of the second radiation curable resin are cured in the operation of curing the uncured second

part of the first radiation curable resin and the uncured second part of the second radiation curable resin.

Itoigawa discloses a method of producing optical discs in which two optical discs are laminated to each other. In particular, Itoigawa discloses that each optical disc includes a base plate 41, 51 having a recorded area in which pits or grooves are formed, and a reflecting film 42, 52 is formed on the recorded area. Then, an ultraviolet-curing resin as a protective film 43, 53 is formed to cover the innermost and outermost circumferential portions of the base plate 41, 51 as well as the recorded area of the base plate 41, 51 so as to form a pair of discs. A radiation curing adhesive layer 44, 54 is then formed on the protective layer 43 of one optical disc. The radiation-curing adhesive layer 44, 54 is, however, not formed on the innermost and outermost circumferential portions of the base plate 41, 51, because a liquid ultraviolet-curing resin 45 is dropped on the protective layer 43 where the radiation curing adhesive layer 44 is not formed to cover the innermost and outermost circumferential portions of the base plate 41 (see Column 4, line 49 to Column 5, line 19, Column 5, line 55 to Column 6, line 12, and Figures 4A-C and 5A-5B).

To laminate two optical discs to one another, Itoigawa discloses that an optical disc (second optical disc) other than the optical disc on which the liquid ultraviolet-curing resin 45 is dropped (first optical disc) is inverted so as to oppose the first optical disc. Then, the first and second optical discs are bonded together by the radiation-curing adhesive layers 44, 54 of the first and second discs, and a part of the liquid ultraviolet-curing resin 45 which is squeezed out of the outermost peripheral portions of the first and second optical discs to cover the bonding edges is irradiated with ultraviolet light and cured (see Column 5, lines 25-34 and Figures 4D-E).

In another embodiment, Itoigawa discloses that masks 55 can be used to prevent portions of the radiation-curing adhesive 54 from being cured by a first irradiation of ultraviolet light. The masks 55 can then be removed as a part of the adhesive 54 is squeezed out of the outermost peripheral portions of the optical discs, whereupon a second irradiation of ultraviolet light is applied until tackiness of the adhesive 54 disappears (see Column 6, lines 29-54 and Figures 5C-E).

However, it must be noted that the process of laminating optical discs according to Itoigawa is completed when the two substrates (optical discs) are laminated together and the adhesive layer 44, 54 between the substrates are wholly cured.

Accordingly, Itoigawa clearly does not disclose or suggest that a first substrate is removed after the uncured second part of the first radiation curable resin and the uncured second part of the second radiation curable resin are cured in an operation of curing the uncured second part of the first radiation curable resin and the uncured second part of the second radiation curable resin, as recited in claim 22.

Therefore, Itoigawa clearly fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 22. As a result, claim 22 is clearly not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Itoigawa since Itoigawa fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 22.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 is clearly patentable over Itoigawa.

In item 7 on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 24 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoigawa. This rejection is believed to be moot with respect to claims 24 and 30 in view of the cancellation of claims 24 and 30. New claim 50 is similar to cancelled claim 24, except that new claim 50 depends from new claim 47, instead of claim 23.

Nevertheless, as demonstrated above, Itoigawa clearly fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 22. Therefore, no obvious modification of Itoigawa can result in the invention of new claim 50 since Itoigawa clearly fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 22.

In item 8 on page 6 of the Office Action, claims 22-43 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoigawa et al. in view of Ohki et al. (U.S. 5,708,652, hereinafter "Ohki"). Further, In item 9 on page 7 of the Office Action, claims 44 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoigawa et al. in view of Komaki et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053121, hereinafter "Komaki").

As demonstrated above, Itoigawa clearly fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 22. Namely, Itoigawa fails to disclose or suggest that a first substrate is removed after an uncured part of the first radiation curable resin on

the first substrate and an uncured part of the second radiation curable resin on the second substrate are cured.

Neither Ohki nor Komaki disclose, suggest or even remotely contemplate this feature of claim 22.

Therefore, neither Ohki nor Komaki cure the deficiencies of Itoigawa for failing to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 22.

Consequently, no obvious combination of Itoigawa, Ohki and Komaki would result in the invention of claim 22 since Itoigawa, Ohki and Komaki, either individually or in combination, clearly fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 22.

Furthermore, in view of the clear distinctions between the present invention and the applied references as discussed above, the Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to modify Itoigawa, Ohki and Komaki in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the invention of claim 22.

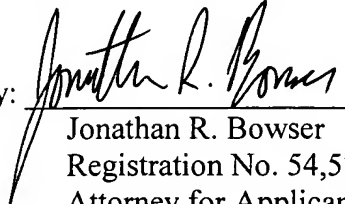
Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22, as well as claims 23, 27, 32, 36, 38-39 and 42-51 which depend therefrom, are clearly patentable over the prior art as applied by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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